Unification of services in telecom sector

414. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the TRAI's proposal for full unification of services in telecom sector, the cellular operators have suggested for adoption of a two-tier structure which entails circular-wise licensing and an all India unified telecom license; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has suggested to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for adoption of a two-tier service area classification namely;

(i) Circle-wise licensing as applicable to the Cellular Operators, Unified Access Licensees, etc.

(ii) An All India Unified Licence.

Attacks on Indians in Gulf countries

415. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing attacks towards the life and property of Indians working in Gulf and other middle east countries;

(b) if so, the details of such attacks during the last three years including loss of property and life, year-wise, country-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken for an early access of the Indian citizens to the Indian Embassies after the mishap;

(d) its so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial compensation, if any, provided to Indians and the reasons for increasing number of such incidents towards Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No. There are no reports of increasing attacks on Indians in Gulf countries;